

There are so many ways to convert a color picture into black & white, and here I'll show you a few ways to do this.

1



Ok - here we go.

Start with opening up your picture. I chose a picture of my daughter in a little wooden tree house we found one day we were out walking.

Since her face is basically framed by wood with lots of great texture I wanted to get a rough appearance with great contrast.

I'll start with showing you the 2 easiest ways of converting to b&w - and by some of the most common methods: Grayscale and Desaturation. I rarely use these 2 methods though because they usually produce a flat image with low contrast.

Let me show you:

2



Grayscale

Image - Mode - Grayscale

Simple as that - but as you can see it loose some dept. Didn't turn out really bad on this particular image though...

3



Desaturate

Image - Adjustments - Desaturate

Quick and easy - but the image has very low contrast, and it appears "pale" and flat. Not what I had in mind at all.

What I really love about old fashion B&W photography is the great dept and contrast they can provide.

Ok - it's time to get serious; I'll show you my 2 favorite ways of turning my pictures into b&w where you have total control of the end result.

4



Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer

The next method I'm gonna show is by simply using several Hue/saturation adjustment layers. This means that you can go back and alter the effect at anytime + you never make any change to the original image.

At your original picture layer go to **Layer - New Adjustment layer - Hue/Saturation**. Then just click OK without altering any of the settings - and then change the layer mode from Normal to **Color**.

Then add a **new Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer** - but this time turn down the Saturation to -100 before you click OK.

You can see how my picture looked like so far in the picture to the left.




Now the fun begins. Double click the first Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer you made (the color mode one) and then adjust the effect on the picture by sliding the **Hue** bar until you get an effect you're satisfied with. You can also then adjust the **saturation** bar to even adjust some more.

[Here's the settings](#) I used to get the effect on the picture to the left.

It's starting to look good - but I still think it lacks a little something...



Here's what we'll do:

Duplicate the Hue/Saturation Adjustment layer (still the color mode one) by dragging it down to the Create New Layer tab .

Now change the layer mode on this new adjustment layer from Color to **Overlay**, and then drag down the opacity a little. I took mine down to 64% opacity.

Now we're getting somewhere! You see my end result here to the left. The contrast is great without losing any detail - which again really adds depth to the picture. This is what I had in my mind when I started out.

Note that different pictures will need different treatment to get the results you want - so be sure to play around with other settings and layer modes as well :)

5



Channel Mixer

The final method I'm gonna show you is by using Channel Mixer Adjustment layers.

On the picture layer go to **Layer - New Adjustment Layer - Channel mixer**. Now be sure to check the **Monochrome** option like shown [here](#).

Now adjust the effect on your picture simply by sliding the red, green and blue channel sliders. *Important: Try to keep the total sum around 100 to avoid washed out areas in your picture.*

I set the red and green channel to zero and the blue channel to 100. This gives a very drastic effect to the skin tones - but for this picture I think it fitted really well.

Final step.

Duplicate the Channel Mixer Adjustment layer by dragging it down to the Create a New Layer tab.

Then change the Layer mode from Normal to **Overlay** and drag the opacity down quite a bit. I took it down to 49% on this particular image - but I often end up around 20-30.

The picture on the left shows how my picture looks after adding the last Channel Mixer Adjustment layer.

It's a bit dark and moody - but that really suits this particular picture.

Ok - we're done!

Hope this gave you some ideas to play with on your own :)

